

Dated: May 28, 1998.

**Joseph Retzer,**

*Director, Regulatory Information Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-14847 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6107-2]

**Carcinogenic Effects of Benzene: An Update**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of a final report titled, Carcinogenic Effects of Benzene: An Update (EPA/600/P-97/001F), which was prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) of the Office of Research and Development (ORD).

**DATES:** This document will be available on or about June 15, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The document is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. A limited number of paper copies will be available from the Center for Environmental Research Information, National Risk Management Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 26 W. Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268; telephone: 513-569-7562; fax: 513-569-7566. If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, mailing address, and the document title and number, Carcinogenic Effects of Benzene: An Update (EPA/600/P-97/001F).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Bayliss, National Center for Environmental Assessment/Washington Office (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. 20460. Telephone: 202-564-3294; fax: 202-565-0078; e-mail: [benzene.new@epa.gov](mailto:benzene.new@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This report was developed at the request of the Office of Mobile Sources, Office of Air and Radiation, to update the current Agency cancer inhalation risk characterization shown on the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) and in the 1985 assessment, Interim Quantitative Cancer Unit Risk Estimates Due to Inhalation of Benzene. The major issue addressed in this report involves the magnitude of the risk of cancer to humans exposed to low levels of benzene. Occupational studies of workers exposed to benzene continue to

provide the bulk of evidence of benzene's carcinogenicity. Workers are exposed at much higher levels than is the general public. This document reaffirms that benzene is a "known" human carcinogen by all routes of exposure. This finding is supported by evidence from epidemiologic studies, animal data, and an improved understanding of mechanism(s) of action. Human epidemiologic studies of highly exposed occupational cohorts have demonstrated that exposure to benzene can cause acute nonlymphocytic leukemia and other blood disorders. Additionally, changes in blood and bone marrow consistent with hematotoxicity are recognized in humans and experimental animals. Currently, there is insufficient evidence to reject a linear dose-response curve for extrapolation of risk to low exposure levels and so use of a linear extrapolation is still recommended. In its earlier assessment, and in IRIS, EPA uses a single risk estimate for benzene of 26 per thousand per ppm of lifetime inhalation exposure. This update assessment recommends a range of risk estimates, that is, 7.1-25 per thousand per ppm.

A draft of this document underwent public comment during July and August 1997 and external peer-panel review on July 16, 1997 (62 FR 35172-35173). These review comments were considered in preparing the final document.

Dated: May 21, 1998.

**William H. Farland,**

*Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.*

[FR Doc. 98-14848 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

**FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION**

**Ocean Freight Forwarder License Applicants**

Notice is hereby given that the following applicants have filed with the Federal Maritime Commission applications for licenses as ocean freight forwarders pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and 46 CFR 510).

Persons knowing of any reason why any of the following applicants should not receive a license are requested to contact the Office of Freight Forwarders, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, D.C. 20573.

Freight and Export Management  
Expeditors International, 12818  
Skyknoll Lane, Houston, TX 77082,

Officers: Angel Ortiz, Partner; Juan Garza, Partner  
OverOceans, Inc., 2902 Airfreight Road, Houston, TX 77032, Officers: George J. Smith, CEO; Kahne D. Smith, President  
Reto Shipping Corporation d/b/a Reto Services, 8364 N.W. 66 Street, Miami, FL 33166, Officers: Angel Gonzalez, President; Loraine V. Gonzalez, Vice President.

Dated: May 29, 1998.

**Joseph C. Polking,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-14769 Filed 6-3-98; 8:45 am]

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**FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

**Agency information collection activities: Announcement of Board approval under delegated authority and submission to OMB**

**SUMMARY**

**Background**

Notice is hereby given of the final approval of a proposed information collection by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) under OMB delegated authority, as per 5 CFR 1320.16 (OMB Regulations on Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public). Board-approved collections of information are incorporated into the official OMB inventory of currently approved collections of information. A copy of the OMB 83-I and supporting statement and an approved collection of information instrument is placed into OMB's public docket files. The Federal Reserve may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT:** Chief, Financial Reports Section--Mary M. McLaughlin--Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551 (202-452-3829)

OMB Desk Officer--Alexander T. Hunt--Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, DC 20503 (202-395-7860)

Final approval under OMB delegated authority the extension for three years, with revision, of the following report:

1. *Report title:* Annual Report of Bank Holding Companies  
*Agency form number:* FR Y-6